

HABS
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↑ Connecticut Hall
Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut
New Haven Co

HABS No. 3-5

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District #3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

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"South Middle" is the oldest of the college buildings now standing and the story of its erection is sufficiently curious, as a picture of the times, to deserve reproduction here. The following is taken from the record of a meeting of the corporation, held April 6, 1748:

"Whereas by reason of the increase of the number of students in this college of late years, the present College House is not large enough to entertain one-half the students, and there is a necessity of a new College House for that end: and whereas upon a representation thereof, made by the President to the General Assembly of this Colony in May last, the said Assembly ordered there should be a Lottery to raise money for that end; and appointed Capt. John Hubbard, Mr. Samuel Mix and Mr. Chauncey Whittelsey to be directors and managers of the said Lottery, and in October last ordered that the money which should be so raised should be delivered to the President and Fellows for that purpose."

"The said Directors informed this board that in pursuance to the said Act, they had concerted and drawn a Lottery whereby they had raised the sum of 5400 Pounds in bills of Old Tenor: 200 Pounds whereof they have kept in their hands for their own trouble, according to the said Act, and the remaining 5200 Pounds they are ready

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to deliver according to Order, which at present subsists in 1810 Spanish Pieces of Eight and 399 Pounds in bills of Old Tenor. Whereupon it is ordered by this board that the said Capt. John Hubbard, Mr. Samuel Mix and Mr. Chauncey Whittelsey pay and deliver unto the President The said 1810 Spanish Pieces of Eight and 399 Pounds in bills of Old Tenor."

"It is ordered by this Board: That there be a new College House built with brick of 105 feet in length, 40 feet in breadth and 3 stories high besides the garrets, with a cellar under the whole house, and that the said house be set near the north end of the College Yard."

"Ordered that John Hubbard and John Hitchcock, Esquires, Mr. Samuel Mix and Mr. Chauncey Whittelsey, or any three of them, be a committee to effect and carry on the building of said house under the inspection and direction of the President and the Rev. Mr. Noyes."

Four years later we find the following record:

"September 20, 1752, Mr. President Clap laid before this board an Account of the Money he has received and expended towards building the New College, viz.:

The money raised by the Lottery in 1748	5200	0	0
Interest upon the Lottery money	212	18	0
*Money given by the General Assembly, Oct. 1749 on Col. Saltonstall's bond	4000	0	0

*This money was the proceeds of a French prize taken by a frigate fitted out by and belonging to the little independent Sovereignty of Connecticut.

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Interest on said money	45	0	0
Given by Thomas Wells, Esq.	100	0	0
Given by Mr. Welch of New Milford	3	0	0
Given by the General Assembly in Oct. 1751, two bonds, viz. one from Col. Salstonstall and the other from Jabez Huntington, Esq., Principal and in- terest on both	6616	4	2
	16177	02	02
Paid to Mr. Chauncey Whittelsey, one of the Committee for building the College	14019	06	05
Remaining in the President's hands when he shall have received the whole due on the said Bonds	2157	15	09

"Ordered that the new College House lately built and almost finished on the outside be named and called Connecticut Hall." Whereupon the Presidents and Fellows walked into the said house, and the Beadle, by order, made the following declaration, viz.:

"Whereas, through the favor of Divine Providence, this new College House has been built by the munificence of the Colony of Connecticut; in perpetual commemoration of so great generosity this neat and decent building shall be called 'Connecticut Hall'".

The building thus erected and dedicated is said to have been of "elegant appearance" and "the best building in the colony". It was three stories high, with a "French" or "gambril" roof and "Dormar" windows. It

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is evident on inspection even now that it was a structure of more architectural pretension than^N any erected on the college grounds until quite a recent period. The caps of the windows and doors are of fine brown sandstone, apparently Portland stone, and have ornamental projecting keystones; there are belt courses of projecting bricks marking the different stories, and the water table is formed of bricks specially moulded for the purpose in an ogee pattern.

It was some time before the interior was fully completed and there are several entries in the college records showing that students were allowed to finish and occupy rooms on an agreement with the corporation to reimburse them after a certain time for the money expended; "Provided the Corporation shall then have in their hands all monies given or procured for the finishing of the New College sufficient for such a reimbursement. In 1757, nine years after its inception, the building seems to have been substantially completed.

For forty years the building appears to have remained without much change, but on July 5, 1796, it was voted to effectuate repairs and on September 14, 1796, it was decided to raise it another story.

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In pursuance of these votes, in 1797 the gambrel roof was removed, the building raised a story and a gable roof put on. In later years, partitions were removed on a portion of the lower floor for the purpose of making a reading room (now the Registrar's office).

In general style and interior arrangement the building was a pattern for all the dormitories down to the time of the Farnum College. It had two halls on each floor from front to rear, those on the lower floor having doors at either end. There were ^w_A principal rooms on each side of each hall on each floor, making thirty-two studies or parlors, each having two sleeping rooms attached, making ninety-six rooms in all, besides ample closets. Neither steam pipes, coal or stoves were then known, and gas was not introduced into New Haven until just about one hundred years after the erection of Connecticut Hall. Ample wood fires, however, gave sufficient warmth and the broad open fire flues afforded the best of ventilation; which accounts sufficiently, if it is necessary to account ⁿ_A at all, for the superior clearness of head of the men of those days.

Many men who in their youth were students at Yale College add considerable to the historic value of Connecticut Hall. Outstanding among them are:

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1. Nathan Hale, Class 1773. Born June 6, 1755, died September 22, 1776. Patriot and Spy of the Revolution. Nathan is the Hero of the Campus. No graduate so symbolizes to the undergraduates of today the Highest manifestation of the Yale Spirit as this able student and manly youth who gladly gave up his life in His Country's Service.
2. James Kent, Class 1781. Born July 31, 1763, died December 12, 1847. Famous jurist.
3. Jeremiah Mason, Class 1788. Born April 27, 1768, died October 14, 1848. Leader of the American Bar.
4. Eli Whitney, Class 1792. Born December 8, 1765, died January 8, 1825. Inventor of the Cotton Gin.
5. James Gates, Class 1815. Born September 15, 1795, died May 2, 1856. Poet and Geologist.
6. Theodore Woolsey, Class 1820. Born October 31, 1801, died July 1, 1889. President of Yale College 1846 to 1871. Valedictorian of his Class.
7. Horace Bushnell, Class 1827. Born April 14, 1802, died February 17, 1876. Theologian and Preacher. Dr. Bushnell stands out almost as prominently among the religious thinkers of New England in the 19th Century as Jonathan Edwards does among those in the 18th Century.
8. Noah Porter, Class 1831. Born December 14, 1811, died March 4, 1892. President of Yale College 1871-1886.
9. Frederick A. Ward, Class 1862. Born April 1, 1841, died April 29, 1903. Lawyer and Judge of the Supreme

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Court, 1898.

An original account of expenditures and materials and photostatic copies of original documents pertaining to the construction of Connecticut Hall are obtainable in the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University.

Titles: "An Account of the Charges of Building the New College" by President Clap. "Materials Began to be Prepared AD 1748". "First Stone Laid April 17, 1750". "Brickwork Finished July, 1752". Excerpts from the above accounts as follows:

Digging cellar	200	Pounds*
458 Loads Stone	491	14
Stone Water table (Window lintels 155#)	5	9
227,545 Bricks and transportation	3654	16 1
14,155 Shingles	291	18
124 window frames	248	
5,609 bushels lime	1487	15 6

All woodwork consisting of beams, joists, etc. were hand hewn. Original floors were oak boards.

In 1905, the original roof and dormers were restored by the Graduates. Drawings for this work were made by Grosenvor Atterbury, who spent considerable time in research so that the restoration would be true in every detail. The cost of this work amounted to \$16,354.

* Pound is equivalent to \$5.00.

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Source of information:

Yale College V I William L. Kingsley

Yale Worthies Anson Phelps Stokes

Beginnings of Yale Edwin Oviatt

An Account of the Charges of Building the New

College President Clap

Approved:

Harold H. Davis.

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.